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NOTES.

Two recent numbers of the *Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science* (Herbert B. Adams, editor) tend to show that Baltimore is still the center of that original work in our country's past which was inaugurated there about a score of years ago. It is difficult to overestimate the influence Dr. Adams has exerted in a field wherein he has labored so long and with such signal success. Far more important, however, than any personal achievement of his has been the interest he has everywhere aroused in American history, and the publications which may be traced directly to his inspiration. This is true of all portions of the country; but no section of the nation owes to the accomplished Director of the Historical Department of the Johns Hopkins University a heavier debt of gratitude than the Southern States. It is scarcely too much to say that the present interest this section manifests in history is contemporaneous with Dr. Adams. In season and out of season he has urged the importance of preserving the records of the past, and the value of the present manifestations of State life. He has always remained true to his famous text, borrowed from Prof. Freeman: "History is past politics, and politics are present history." And the occupant of many a chair of history at the various colleges of the South must always remember Dr. Adams as one who first taught him the true meaning of human progress, as well as the vital necessity of unceasing toil and publication.

Of the present monographs, the most interesting, perhaps, to the general reader is the one prepared by Dr. George Washington Ward, Professor of History in the Western Maryland College, on "The Early Development of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Project." This project, as Dr. Ward points out in his valuable contribution to the history of American waterways, was somewhat different from

the present Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, for which ground was broken in 1828 by President John Quincy Adams. Before the advent of the railway it was the firm conviction that the shortest route from the seaboard to the Ohio Valley was by way of the Potomac and Monongahela Rivers; and everyone thought that the great thoroughfare of communication between the eastern and western portions of the United States would be along such a route. Dr. Ward sketches the slow evolution of this idea and the manner in which the Federal government dealt with it. He also incidentally touches upon the failure of the canal, as well as its connection with the Baltimore and Ohio Railway. His conclusion is that "the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal project was launched upon the tidal wave of the 'American System,' dashed to pieces by the sudden recession of that wave, and left stranded on the southern shore of Maryland. Deserted by the Federal Government when no more than twenty miles of the canal had been opened to navigation, Maryland furnished the millions with which the work was finally completed to Cumberland."

The other number of these Studies that remains to be noticed represents the work of students of the Johns Hopkins University, and is edited by Dr. J. H. Hollander, Associate Professor in Economics, whose recent edition of the "Letters of Ricardo" has brought to him so many words of praise. Under the title of "Studies in State Taxation" we have here presented to us the results of very careful investigations of the fiscal systems of five commonwealths—namely, Maryland, North Carolina, Kansas, Mississippi, and Georgia. This fairly reproduces the chief characteristics of Southern systems of taxation, and cannot fail to be of great value to all who wish the cumbersome methods many communities now labor under to yield to a more sensible and impartial arrangement. The fiscal system of each State is described very carefully, and remedies suggested for supposed evils. These investigations all seem to teach the futility of any universal application of generally accepted prin-

ciples of taxation. Each commonwealth, on the contrary, must adopt a scheme of fiscal administration to suit its own condition and stage of development, always with reference, however, to certain universal canons.

“Old Watering Places in Warren County” is the title of a pamphlet by Mr. George Anderson Foote, who sketches the history of some famous ante-bellum summer resorts of North Carolina. The author appends a narrative written by his father, a surgeon in the Confederate army, while a prisoner in Fort Columbus, New York, detailing the execution of John Y. Beall, the famous Virginian guerrilla. Dr. Foote, in the course of his memorandum, asserts in substance that Booth assassinated President Lincoln because of the latter’s refusal to pardon Beall, the friend and college chum of Booth. It will be recalled that Beall figured in the St. Albans raid and was subsequently arrested as a spy in the Federal lines, and on that charge tried and executed toward the end of the war.

Mr. Paul Samuel Reinsch, Assistant Professor of Political Science in the University of Wisconsin, publishes in the October *Bulletin* of that institution his doctor’s thesis on the “English Common Law in the Early American Colonies.” It has seldom been our fortune to encounter a more scholarly juristic piece of work; it is not only highly creditable to its author, but also gives evidence of the best kind of the high grade of work done in the graduate schools at Madison. The burden of Mr. Reinsch’s thesis is to prove that there is an originality in our legal development which the commonly accepted juristic theory fails to recognize. The English common law was a technical system well adapted to the needs of a settled community, but not suited at first to the purposes of the colonists, who looked with scant favor on a trained profession, and were disposed to develop a popular system of justice of their own, which, if rude, perhaps reflected the sentiments of the community. While this was possible, however, in colonies like Massachusetts, whose population was homogeneous, it was not practicable in New

York, whose inhabitants were of a more cosmopolitan type. With the evolution of the social organization, moreover, the technical rules of the English common law were slowly received. But there have always remained "the original institutions and legal ideas developed by the colonists in response to the demands of their novel situation." Many of these, particularly in New England, were derived from scriptural authority; and when American society had sufficiently advanced to adopt the common law, the two systems were amalgamated. Mr. Reinsch might have emphasized the peculiarities of New England decisions more than he has done. We do not think, moreover, that he even hints at the opposition in the same quarter to the jurisdiction of the chancery courts because of the Puritan jealousy of the right of trial by jury. This fact, however, does not mar the excellence of the monograph, which should find its way into the hands of every student of the legal and political history of the United States.

The Atlantic Monthly, under its new editor, Mr. Bliss Perry of Princeton University, is not merely holding its own but making new friends. Its recent serial, "To Have and to Hold," by that brilliant Southern authoress, Miss Mary Johnston, has, we understand, proved a most attractive feature, and certainly should have made the magazine popular in this section. An article that should have greatly appealed to the South was Mr. Hamilton Mabie's paper on Poe's place in literature in a late number—January, if our memory serves us. This paper was read by Mr. Mabie last autumn at the unveiling of Zolnay's bust of Poe at the University of Virginia. It is an admirable presentation of Poe's claims to rank either supreme in our literature or else as the equal of Hawthorne, who is popularly accorded this honor. We regard it as one of Mr. Mabie's happiest efforts, and cordially commend it to our readers.

It is certainly matter for regret that the old and reputable publishing house of D. Appleton & Co. should find itself in

financial straits, and we trust that the belief expressed that they will be able to meet their obligations and continue business without curtailment is well founded. Coming so soon after the Harper assignment, this notable event in the publishing world calls special attention to the fact that the publisher of to-day does business on very different lines from his predecessor. Production must now be on a large scale if success is to be attained, and production on a large scale means a big smash if affairs go wrong. Local booksellers have long since gone to the wall; will publishers go too, leaving a trust monarch of all it surveys? We hope not. We hope also that the Messrs. Appleton will not be obliged to discontinue their promising Twentieth Century series of school-books, the first volumes which have won much favor.

A note seems absurdly disproportioned to the merits of what was in many respects the most notable book published in 1899—the “Letters of Robert Louis Stevenson,” edited by Sidney Colvin. (New York: Scribner’s.) In the exigencies of a quarterly’s publication, however, much excuse may be found for such disproportionate treatment. We are too late to make our praise worth having, from the point of view either of the publishers or of our readers, who have doubtless long since basked in the charm of the volumes. Still, it is a pleasure at all times to praise what is charming and wholesome; and charming and wholesome Stevenson’s “Letters” surely are. No more delightful, and perhaps no more inspiring, personality has revealed himself to us in late years, and they are unfortunate who hold or remain aloof from such a revelation. Doubtless the correspondence, which Mr. Colvin has edited with admirable thoroughness and care, will direct renewed attention to Stevenson’s creative work in fiction and poetry—with what result we do not feel competent to predict. We should not be surprised, however, if many persons returned from their incursions into Stevenson’s other works with the determination to reread the letters in which his inspiring personality found so complete an expression.

“Histories and Historical Societies” was the subject of an address delivered a year ago by Hon. Charles Francis Adams, at the opening of the Fenway Building of the Massachusetts Historical Society. It now appears in pamphlet form, and, although of a somewhat discursive nature, is replete with timely suggestions and wise reflections.

A monograph which is well worth the serious attention of students of sociology in general and of those interested in Southern conditions in particular comes to us from Atlanta University, and is entitled “The Negro in Business.” Part of its contents has already seen the light, if we are not mistaken, in the form of a contribution to the Reports of the Bureau of Labor; but Dr. Du Bois has appended thereto a very valuable account of the proceedings of the Fourth Conference for the study of the negro problem, held last May at Atlanta. Much light is thrown on the economic and social progress of the colored race by these intelligent studies, and perhaps the most hopeful aspect of this work is furnished by the fact that the negro is approaching self-consciousness. The fact that negroes are so largely engaged throughout the Southern States in industrial undertakings argues well for their economic freedom in this section, where one rarely finds that prejudice against black workingmen which is characteristic of many Northern communities. In some of the larger cities of the East it is becoming more and more difficult for a negro to find employment save in the most menial walks of life. The Italians are even driving him out of the bootblack business in New York City, and he is often forced to gain a livelihood there by working in saloons, gambling houses, and other resorts that are well calculated to drag him down to the lowest depths of degradation. It is the exception to find a negro waiter in an Eastern club or hotel. With the growth of urban population a similar state of things may soon exist in the South, and, indeed, in the newer commonwealths of this section the barber and the mechanic of the black race are fast being supplemented by their white rivals. Unless the

negro is capable and willing to work he will be driven to the wall. The race is still in its storm and stress period, and is obliged, at its peril, to learn how to adapt itself to a new environment teeming with the seeds of future disaster. In these altered circumstances the negro cannot afford to count on receiving that sentimental consideration which came to him perhaps naturally after the civil war had clothed him with a citizenship for which he was ill prepared. He is now placed on the same legal and economic footing with the white race, and must cultivate those moral and intellectual faculties that form the basis of every manly and independent character. His interests are identical with those of his white neighbors. The problems of both races are the same, and the greatest of those problems is not how one race may supplant the other, but how both may unite in the work of building up the waste places of a common country, and rendering all parts of it safe for men and women to live in—to live, too, under the best conditions possible.

There are two sources of amusement for negroes mentioned in this brochure against which every friend of the black race should set his face. We refer to the saloon and the minstrel show. It is difficult to say which influence is the more debasing, but, all things considered, we are inclined to yield the palm to the vaudeville with its "coon" songs and survival of immoral savage serpent worship in the form of the so-called "cake walk." The negro saloon is too often the rendezvous of the most depraved and vicious of both sexes, where drunken brawls, and even murders, frequently occur. As for the minstrel shows, with a few well-known exceptions, the sooner the public realizes their baleful influences the better. They are not only a burlesque of negro life, with songs the negroes have neither composed nor sung, but they are frequently exhibitions of a vulgarity and filth that contaminate all classes of the community that tolerates them. Amusements the negroes should have, but they ought to be—even if of a histrionic type—of a healthy, elevating character rather than the reverse.

Attention is called to the fact that that admirable series of historical studies known as "American Statesmen," which Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. have been publishing for many years, under the editorship of Mr. John T. Morse, Jr. has practically come to a close with the issue of Prof. A. B. Hart's "Chase," Mr. Charles Francis Adams's life of his distinguished father, and Mr. Moorfield Story's "Sumner." It is almost needless to say that the volumes prepared by these competent hands rank high in the series and that they will be invaluable to students of American history. The only fault to be found with the series, to our mind, is the fact that, after Calhoun, it finds no room for any Southern statesman and indeed for few Northern Democrats. Is there still a delusion in Boston to the effect that only the men who helped to preserve the Union are to be counted as American statesmen? On this principle an adherent of monarchy would omit Cromwell from a series of English statesmen, with rather absurd results.

We are pleased to notice that Mr. John Lane is advertising the tenth thousand of Mr. Stephen Phillips's play, "Paola and Francesca." Part of this demand is undoubtedly due to much the same popular desire for the new thing that has made Mr. Markham's "Man with the Hoe" such a financial success, but we trust that a goodly number of readers have been attracted to Mr. Phillips's play because it came from the accomplished pen of the author of "Christ in Hades" and "Marpessa." Those who were attracted to the drama because of the beauty of the "Poems" have surely not been disappointed. No other recent poet has scored such a success; and if the play succeeds on the stage as well as it does in the closet, Mr. Phillips's fame would seem to be secure.

That very useful book, "A Dictionary of English Synonyms and Synonymous or Parallel Expressions," by Richard Soule, has just been issued by Little, Brown & Co. in a new and revised edition under the supervision of Prof. George

H. Howison, LL.D., of the University of California. The first edition was copyrighted in 1871, so that the work has a standing of nearly thirty years. Prof. Howison acknowledges the thoroughness of the original compiler's work by stating that he "found little more to do than to carry out to greater completeness the lines of Mr. Soule's original design." We believe that the new edition will be welcomed by a very large public and that both the editor and the publishers are to be congratulated on the success of their labors.

The "Beacon Biographies" go bravely on. Mr. Ellery Sedgwick's "Thomas Paine" forms the tenth volume of what has become a really notable series. Among volumes promised we note that "Sam Houston" will be undertaken by Miss Sarah Barnwell Elliott, and "Benjamin Franklin" by Mr. Lindsay Swift. Poe was assigned to the late Richard Hovey, but we do not know yet whether he had completed it at the time of his lamented death.

We have on our table from the Macmillan Company Volume X. of the Temple edition of Sir Thomas North's translation of Plutarch's "Lives," completing the work; "The Nature and Work of Plants," by Daniel Trembly Macdougall; and "The World and the Individual," Gifford Lectures delivered before the University of Aberdeen by Prof. Josiah Royce. We have from Henry Holt & Co. "Folly Corner," by Mrs. Dudeney, which we shall notice later, and "The Memoirs of the Baroness Cecile de Courtot."